New towers of BSNL

1665. SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether due to poor quality of receptivity and audibility, the BSNL has planned to energise 1000 new towers across Karnataka to widen its mobile network;

(b) whether BSNL has planned to build 300 new towers for Bangalore urban area to cater to the increasing number of BSNL cellular connections; and

(c) whether BSNL has set any deadline for installation of these towers and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) is in process of expanding its Cellular Mobile Network by installation of additional around 900 cellular mobile Base Transceiver Station (BTS) towers in the State of Karnataka to provide additional coverage and improve Quality of Service in the State.

(b) and (c) BSNL has planned 300 additional cellular mobile BTS towers in Bangalore urban area to augment its cellular mobile network capacity for providing additional mobile connections in the town by the end of March, 2006.

Release of pre-paid mobile connections in Bangalore

1666. SHRI K.B. KRISHNAMURTHY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken so far by the BSNL to widen its mobile network in Karnataka;

(b) the steps taken to increase the availability of pre-paid SIM cards in Karnataka and particularly in Bangalore; and

(c) the number of pre-paid mobile connections to be provided in Bangalore by the end of March 2006?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) and